

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-23 and 25-39 are pending, with claims 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20-23, 25 and 31 amended, claims 38-39 added and claims 1-5 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present Amendment.

In the Official Action, claims 25-37 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting in view of claims 25-38 of co-pending application 11/902,155; and claims 1-23 were allowed. As claims 25-38 were only rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting, Applicants surmise that claims 25-38 contain subject matter otherwise allowable.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20-23, 25 and 31 are amended to more clearly describe Applicants' invention. No new matter is added. Applicants submit that amended claims 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20-23, 25 and 31 are allowable for at least the same reasons as previously pending claims 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20-23, 25 and 31 were found to be allowable.

Claims 38-39 are added to recite alternative embodiments of Applicants' invention. No new matter is added. Applicants submit that new claims 38-39 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claims 25 and 31 are allowable.

Applicants file herewith a terminal disclaimer relative to co-pending application 11/902,155. Thus, the double patenting rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

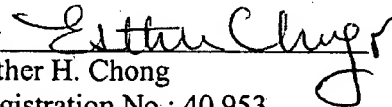
Entry of the Amendment is respectfully required since it places the application in condition for allowance and/or reduces issues for appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Terminal Disclaimer